

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-3123

Forge Road African American Survey District

Baltimore County, MD

1877-1950s

The Forge Road African American Survey District is located near Germantown and Perry Hall in the Eleventh District. Forge Road appears to be one of several main connecting roads between Belair Road and Philadelphia Road in 1850 according to the Sidney Atlas of Baltimore County. In 1850, A few residences were located slightly off the road, including two properties owned by R. Howard. At this time a store, and Howard's furnace is also depicted on the Sidney atlas. The lack of residences along the road suggest that its development was more recent than other roads such as Joppa Road immediately to the south or Bradshaw Road to the north. The 1877 map depicts eight buildings on Forge Road with six of them clustered near Philadelphia Road one of which is a blacksmith shop. The thoroughfare is named Old Forge Road on the 1915 Bromley Atlas.

Forge Road, an east-west road, travels a distance of approximately 2.5 miles. The landscape of Forge Road is mostly level with some gradual sloping. This linear survey district is predominately non-historic dwellings dating to the last half of the 20th century. Out of a approximately 150 buildings, 115 are considered non-historic dating to 1953 or later. Along the entirety of Forge Road there are thirty-five dwellings dating to 1953 or earlier. The oldest house, 4716 Forge Road, appears to date circa 1877 according to the Baltimore County real property assessment. The historic properties range in date from 1877 to the 1950s. Comprising entirely of single-family dwellings, the houses range in size from one story to two-and-a-half-stories in height and are wood-frame construction.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

BA-3123

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Forge Road African American Survey District
other	

2. Location

street and number	Forge Road	_____	not for publication
city, town	Germantown	<u>X</u>	vicinity
county	Baltimore County		

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name		Multiple Ownership	
street and number		telephone	Not Available
city, town	state	zip code	

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Baltimore County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	tax map 63
city, town	Towson	liber	n/a folio n/a

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category		Ownership		Current Function		Resource Count		
						Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district	<input type="checkbox"/>	public	<input type="checkbox"/>	agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	landscape	
<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private	<input type="checkbox"/>	commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/>	recreation/culture	<u>35</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	both	<input type="checkbox"/>	defense	<input type="checkbox"/>	religion	<u>115</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	site			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	domestic	<input type="checkbox"/>	social	
<input type="checkbox"/>	object			<input type="checkbox"/>	education	<input type="checkbox"/>	transportation	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	funerary	<input type="checkbox"/>	work in progress	<u>35</u>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	government	<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown	<u>115</u>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	vacant/not in use	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	other:	
						Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory		
						0		

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Forge Road African American Survey District is situated between Belair Road and Philadelphia Road near Germantown and Perry Hall. This east-west road travels a distance of approximately 2.5 miles. The landscape of Forge Road is mostly level with some gradual sloping. The historic properties are sited close to the road with small front yards and larger backyards. Most of these properties have driveways, either paved or gravel, and many of the houses are fronted with foundation plantings and are surrounded by trees and shrubs.

This linear survey district is predominately non-historic dwellings dating to the last half of the 20th century. Out of a approximately 150 buildings, 115 are considered non-historic dating to 1953 or later. Recent construction is also occurring that is not maintaining a similar size and scale as the historic properties. Along the entirety of Forge Road there are thirty-five dwellings dating to 1953 or earlier. The oldest house, 4716 Forge Road, appears to date circa 1877 according to the Baltimore County real property assessment. A visual assessment of this house determines that this date is a close approximation. The historic properties range in date from 1877 to the 1950s with the majority of them covering the second quarter of the 20th century. Comprising entirely of single-family dwellings, the houses range in size from one story to two-and-a-half-stories in height and are wood-frame construction.

Many of the historic one-story dwellings in the Forge Road survey district date to the 1920s. One example, 5124 Forge Road, is a wood-frame house that was constructed circa 1925. Built in several stages, the oldest section appears to be the front-gable-roof section standing one-and-a-half stories. Resting on a concrete-block foundation this block is three bays wide with a central entry. The single-leaf door is flanked by one 6-light casement window and one 6/6 wood-sash window. Additions include a one-story gable-roof section on the rear elevation and a one-and-a-half story gable-roof addition on the first addition. Features include overhanging eaves, an exterior-side brick chimney, and a portico supported with metal posts. The foundations for the two additions were not visible at the time of the survey. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles and the walls are clad with aluminum siding.

Similar one-and-a-half-story dwellings stand at 5030 Forge Road (ca.1940), 5112 Forge Road (ca. 1930) and 4401 Forge Road (ca. 1925). Each of the dwellings are capped with a front-gable roof and rest on a parged foundation. Differences between each of these include the type of porch or portico on the façade, the number of additions and their footprints, chimney placement, and window and wall siding materials. The houses at 5112 and 5030 Forge Road are both clad with aluminum siding whereas the house at 4401 Forge Road is covered with vinyl siding. The house at 4401 Forge Road has a central-interior corbeled brick chimney, and the house at 5030 Forge Road features an interior brick chimney. From the street, 4401 Forge Road appears not to have any additions.

Examples of two-story dwellings on Forge Road include 4800 Forge Road and 4806 Forge Road. Both are an I-house type common throughout Baltimore County. Similarities between these two houses include the 1930s date of construction, two story height, three bay facade, side-gable roof, central entry, and single-pile depth. A full-width half-hipped-roof porch covers the façade of 4800 Forge Road and is supported with metal posts. The house at 4806 Forge Road has a shed-roof portico with metal posts.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-3123

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1877-1950s	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1877-1950s		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Forge Road African American Survey District is located near Germantown and Perry Hall in the Eleventh District. The Eleventh District is bounded to the south by the Twelfth District, to the north by the Tenth District, to the east is Harford County, and to the west is the Ninth and Tenth District. It historically has been one of the largest districts in the County. Before the turn of the 20th century, the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad ran near the southern border whereas the Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York Railway traversed through the center of the district. The main thoroughfares at present and historically, were Harford, Belair, and Philadelphia Roads (each originally functioned as turnpikes). According to the 1877 Hopkins Atlas, public schools and churches were numerous and the area was largely agricultural.(1)

Forge Road appears to be one of several main connecting roads between Belair Road and Philadelphia Road in 1850 according to the Sidney Atlas of Baltimore County. The 1850 map does not give the road a name, however, its location is exact to the 1877 map of Forge Road. In 1850, A few residences were located slightly off the road, including two properties owned by R. Howard. At this time a store, and Howard's furnace is also depicted on the Sidney atlas. It is located between White Marsh Run and Big Gunpowder Falls off Gunpowder River.(2) The lack of residences along the road suggest that its development was more recent than other roads such as Joppa Road immediately to the south or Bradshaw Road to the north. The 1877 map depicts eight buildings on Forge Road with six of them clustered near Philadelphia Road one of which is a blacksmith shop. Two residences are owned by Benjamin Marple and M. Weeks. The western terminus of Forge Road at Belair Road is the small village of Germantown.(3) The thoroughfare is named Old Forge Road on the 1915 Bromley Atlas.(4)

In 1775, Henry Dorsey Gough purchased a mid-18th century Georgian estate from Corbin Lee and renamed it Perry Hall. This property was located in the vicinity of the current intersection of Belair and Joppa Roads. Belair Road connected Baltimore to the town of Bel Air as early as the mid-1700s. Dating to the 1730s, Joppa Road connected settlements along the Patapsco River with Joppa, the original Baltimore County seat located on the Big Gunpowder River. The Perry Hall estate was located a short distance to the north of the intersection of these two important Colonial period roads. This arrangement set the area on a course for development as a crossroads community.(5)

By the mid-19th century, the lands associated with Perry Hall had been greatly subdivided, and several other landholders in the area began to construct residential buildings along either side of Belair Road. The 1850 county atlas shows at least nine residential structures located between the two rivers. In addition to these, three taverns were clustered around the center of the community near the intersection of Joppa and Belair Roads. The name Germantown came to this settlement in the 1860s, when a significant number of German farmers began to settle in and around the area.(6)

Between 1850 and the mid-1870s, the Germantown community grew considerably. From the nine residential structures in 1850, the town grew to at least thirty-seven in 1877. This number continued to increase, for the county history published shortly thereafter

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Name Forge Road African American Survey District

Continuation Sheet

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records the population as fifty inhabitants. At that time, a general store, two blacksmith shops, a schoolhouse, three churches, and tavern, and sawmill were located in the small settlement. In addition, other communities developed in the vicinity of the Belair/Joppa Road intersection. Greenwood, located to the west of Germantown, had a population of one hundred by 1881. Kingsville, the town just north of the Great Gunpowder Falls, had a population of one hundred and fifty. Although this area was still rural in its agricultural character, it was maintaining a rapid rate of development throughout the second half of the 19th century.(7)

In 1867, the Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike Company incorporated with the intent of creating a better road from Baltimore to the town of Jerusalem. The turnpike was slated to follow the path of Belair Road until it reached the Little Gunpowder Falls, at which point it would veer off and follow Jerusalem Road for the remainder of the distance. The Turnpike Company completed the first eight miles of the road to just south of Perry Hall with the remainder of the road left unimproved. Due to complaints by local citizens and administrative changes in the company, the road was completed for an additional four miles to the existing bridge over Little Gunpowder Falls in 1886. The first tollgate was constructed within the city of Baltimore. The second tollgate along the road was constructed just south of the intersection of Joppa Road and the newly renamed Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike.(8) Since the mid-20th century, the landscape of Germantown has greatly changed. To begin, the community was absorbed by the town of Perry Hall to the immediate south, which developed more through the early 20th century than Germantown. In 1906, the portion of the Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike lying between White Marsh Run and the Little Gunpowder Falls had deteriorated to the extent that all toll collection along this section ceased by order of the state government. After five years of deliberation and petitioning by local residents, the turnpike was finally ceded to Baltimore County. The rural character of the area, however, did not change until after the Great Depression. Increased out-migration from Baltimore and development of the surrounding area led to the suburbanization of Perry Hall. Belair Road, now a main thoroughfare through the town, was widened in the latter half of the 20th century and is now a four lane highway. Commercial buildings, churches, and other institutional buildings now intermingle with a few pockets of residential construction along Belair Road just north of its intersection with Joppa Road.

ENDNOTES

1. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).
2. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys, (Baltimore, MD: J.C. Sidney, 1850).
3. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).
4. Map of Baltimore County (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).
5. William B. Marye, "The Old Indian Road," Maryland Historical Magazine 15 (1920): pp. 208-213; see also "The New Perry Hall School," Federation PTA News 6 (April 1930): p. 1, and E. Frances Offutt, Baltimore County Landmarks (Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1971), p. 46-48.
6. J. C. Sidney, Map of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, from Actual Surveys (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1850; see also Baltimore County Historic Inventory).
7. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), p. 61.
8. E. Frances Offutt, Baltimore County Landmarks (Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1971), p. 46; see also William Hollifield, Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County (Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978), p. 78.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 183 acres

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name White Marsh, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Forge Road African American Survey District is located near Germantown in the Eleventh District of Baltimore County. The properties within the survey district have historically been associated with tax map 63 since their construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristie Baynard, Architectural Historian

organization EHT Tracerics, Inc.

date 7/7/03

street and number 1121 Fifth Street, NW

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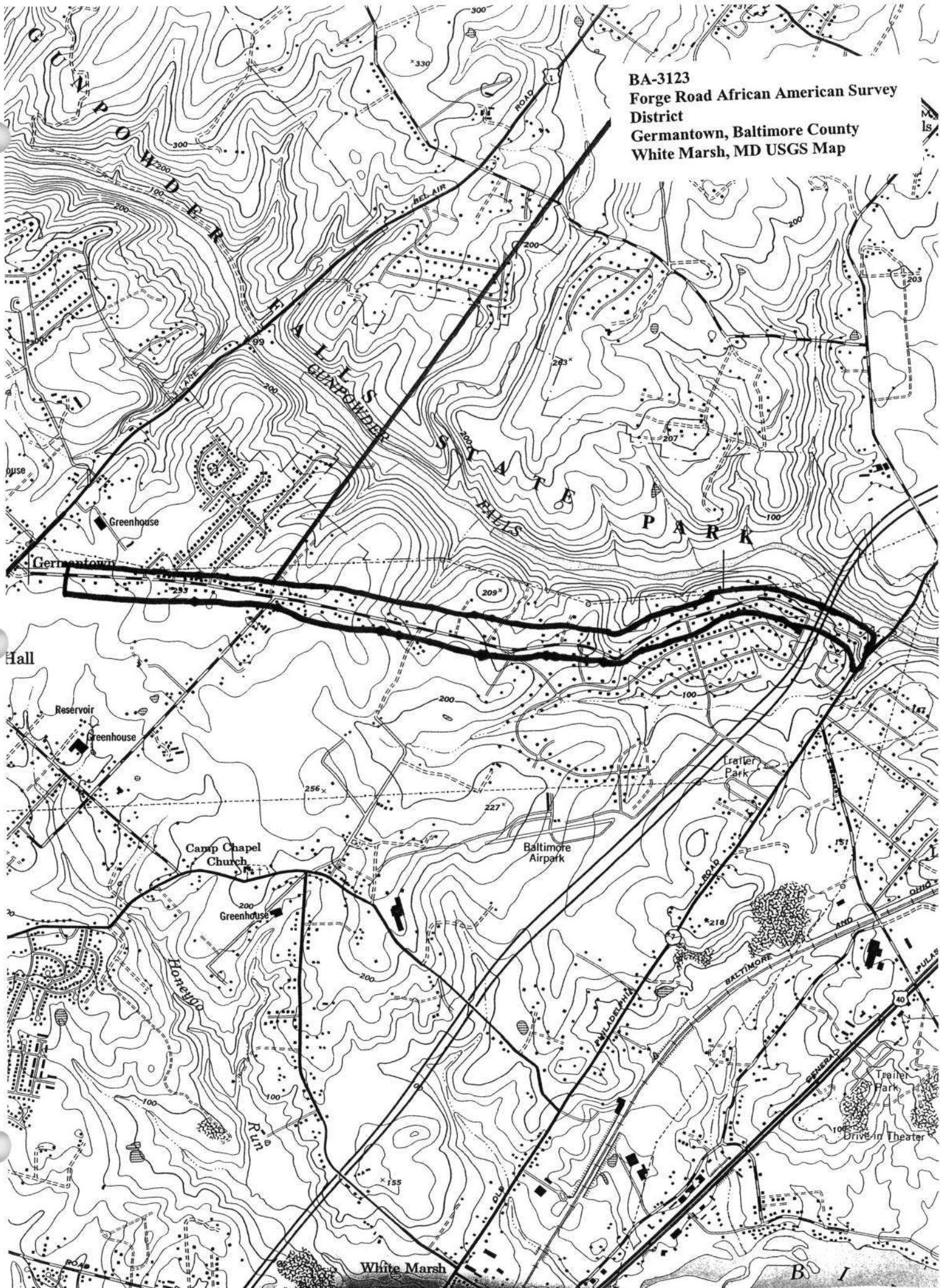
state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

BA-3123
Forge Road African American Survey
District
Germantown, Baltimore County
White Marsh, MD USGS Map





BA-3123

FORGE ROAD AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT
Germantown

Baltimore County, MD

Traceries

6/2003

MD SHPO

5124 FORGE ROAD, VIEW LOOKING NORTH

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BA-3123

FORGE ROAD AFRILAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

GERMANTOWN

Baltimore County, MD

Traceries

6/2003

MD SHPO

4800 FORGE ROAD, VIEW LOOKING EAST

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BA-3123

FORGE ROAD AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

Germanatown

Baltimore County, MD

Traceries

6/2003

MD SHPO

4806 Forge Road view looking NW

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BA-3123

FORGE ROAD AFRILAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT
Germantown

Baltimore County, MD

Traceries

6/2003

MD SHPO

4401 Forge Road, View looking SE

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BA-3123

FORGE ROAD AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT
Germantown

Baltimore County, MD

Traceries

6/2003

MD SHPO

5112 FORGE ROAD, VIEW LOOKING NE

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FORGE ROAD AFRILAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT
Germantown
Baltimore County, MD
Traceries
6/2003
MD SHPO
5030 FORGE ROAD, VIEW LOOKING EAST
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